

To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Thank you for supporting birth control access for all women
Date: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 4:11:27 AM

Dear Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health & Human Services,

I'd simply like to point out how much money birth control access saved insurers in my case. I had a tubal ligation at age 26 by choice. Cost to insurance: about \$2000. If I hadn't chosen sterilization, I probably would have eventually had one or two children. Cost for childbirth at about the time I had the tubal ligation done: about \$5000. Cost of health care for child (assuming nothing drastic happened): about \$1000 per year for 20 years (guessing at cost), or \$20,000. That means insurers saved about \$23,000 in health care costs, more than recouping the original investment.

Given that close to half of all births in the United States are unplanned, the savings potential for insurers is tremendous. Even if birth control costs an insurer \$100 a month (I'm sure it's less, but I thought I'd err on the high side), if even half of all women who use birth control have one less child, a woman could use birth control for close to 10 years and the insurance companies would still break even.

As for the religious objections, this isn't a theocracy. Those who object on the basis of religion can just go pound sand.

Sincerely,

L. Miller